

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 00629 140828Z
ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 /024 W

-----140830Z 039224 /17

R 140817Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4759

UNCLAS TOKYO 0629

DEPT PASS TO DOT.

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRN, TECH, JA
SUBJECT: MAGNETIC LEVITATION LINEAR MOTOR RAILWAY

1. JAPAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS (JNR) WILL BEGIN FULL SCALE TESTS ON
MAGNETIC LEVITATION (MAGLEV) LINEAR MOTOR RAILWAY SYSTEM THIS
COMING SUMMER WHEN 1.3 KM PORTION OF 7-KM TEST TRACK IS SCHEDULED
FOR COMPLETION IN MIYAZAKI PREFECTURE ALONG PACIFIC COAST OF
KYUSHU. PHOTOS OF TRACK INDICATE THAT IT IS OF SUBSTANTIAL
REINFORMCED CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION, WITH RAIL BED ELECVATED ABOUT
10 METERS ABOVE GROUND LEVEL.

2. VEHICLE TO BE TESTED MEASURES 10 X 3.8 X 2.7 METERS AND
WEIGHTS 10 TONS. PROPULSION IS PROVIDED BY LINEAR SYNCHRONOUS
MOTOR (LSM) AND LEVIATION OF OVER 10 CENTIMETERS BY SUPERCONDUCTING
MAGNET. INITIAL TARGET VELOCITY IS 200 KM PER HOUR, ALMOST SAME
AS TOP SPEED OF SHINKANSEN BULLET TRAINS, BUT JNR HOPES TO
ATTAIN ULTIMATE TARGET OF 500 KM PER HOUR BY JFY 1979.

3. PROSPECTS FOR PRACTICAL APPLICATION ARE, HOWEVER, NOT
VERY BRIGHT BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS. MAJOR
BOTTLENECKS ARE FAR GREATER NEED FOR ELECTRIC POWER THAN
REQUIRED BY BULLET TRAINS AND LARGE DEVELOPMENT COST, NOW
ESTIMATED AT YEN 15 BILLION (APPROX. DOLLARS 50 MILLION).

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TOKYO 00629 140828Z

JNR ALREADY SUFFERS CHRONIC FINANCIAL DEFICITS, A MAJOR
NATIONAL PROBLEM TODAY.

4. EFFORTS FOR MAGLEV DEVELOPMENT ARE BEING MADE
INDEPENDENTLY BY TWO OTHER AGENCIES, JAPAN AIRLINES (JAL)
AND MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (MOT). JAL SUCCEDED LAST
JANUARY IN CARRYING TWO PASSENGERS ABOARD ITS HIGH SPEED

SURFACE TRANSPORT (HSST) AT SPEED OF 40 KM PER HOUR. JAL'S IMMEDIATE TARGET IS TO MAKE A VEHICLE CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING VELOCITY OF 200 KM PER HOUR. IT PLANS TO LINK JAPAN'S SECOND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT NARITA (NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION) WITH HANEDA AIRPORT VIA HEART OF TOKYO METROPOLITAN AREA. MOT'S VERSION OF TEST VEHICLE, SMILAR TO JAL'S, IS INTENDED FOR SHORT-DISTANCE TRANSPORTATION FOR COMMUTERS. A PROTOTYPE, HALF THE FULL SIZE, WILL BE DEVELOPED AND TESTED IN JFY 1979.HODGSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, CONSTRUCTION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), RAILROADS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO00629
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770014-0542
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770149/aaaabqui.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 132471d9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DOTE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3589834
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAGNETIC LEVITATION LINEAR MOTOR RAILWAY
TAGS: ETRN, TECH, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/132471d9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009